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### Number of Farms and Land in Farms Both Down 1 Percent

In 2003, the number of farms in Maryland fell to 12,100, a drop of 100 farms from the previous year. Total land in Maryland farms continued to decline, as well, to a record low of 2.06 million acres in 2003, down 1 percent or 20,000 acres from 2002. The average size of a Maryland farm was 170 acres in 2003, the same size as the year before.

Nearly 64 percent of the total farms or 7,700 Maryland operations were counted as small farms with a value of sales less than \$10,000. While the number of smaller farms increased, the number of farms with a value of sales \$10,000 or greater decreased by over 6 percent or 300 farms.

Farms and Land in Farm estimates for the period 1998-2002 have been revised following a thorough review of original survey indications and the recently released 2002 Census of Agriculture preliminary data. These revisions, as published below, indicate that Maryland lost nearly 800 farms and approximately 120,000 acres of farmland over the 5-year period.

### *Farm Numbers and Acreage, Maryland*

Year	Number of Farms <sup>1</sup>	Average Acres Per Farm	Total Land in Farms
<i>Thousand Acres</i>			
1980	17,500	157	2,750
1985	17,500	149	2,600
1990	15,200	148	2,250
1991	15,400	146	2,250
1992	15,600	141	2,200
1993	15,000	153	2,300
1994	14,500	152	2,200
1995	14,300	154	2,200
1996	13,700	161	2,200
1997	13,000	169	2,200
1998	12,800 <sup>2</sup>	170 <sup>2</sup>	2,180 <sup>2</sup>
1999	12,600 <sup>2</sup>	171 <sup>2</sup>	2,160 <sup>2</sup>
2000	12,400 <sup>2</sup>	172 <sup>2</sup>	2,130 <sup>2</sup>
2001	12,300 <sup>2</sup>	171 <sup>2</sup>	2,100
2002	12,200	170 <sup>2</sup>	2,080 <sup>2</sup>
2003	12,100	170	2,060

<sup>1</sup> A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

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